

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The claims have also been amended to delete multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

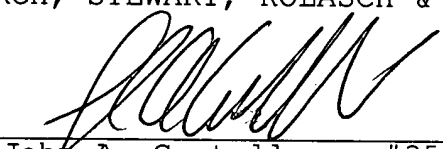
Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


John A. Castellano, #35,094

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JAc/cqc
0459-0569P

Attachment: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made

(Rev. 01/22/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

The specification has been amended to provide cross-referencing to the International Application.

The claims have been amended as follows:

8. (Amended) A hearing aid according to [any of claims 4-7]claim 4, wherein the controlling means comprises switching means adapted to control the operation mode of the hearing aid, the switching means being responsive to the deflection of the stiff lever.

11. (Amended) A hearing aid according to [any of claims 4-10]claim 4, wherein the stiffness of the lever is large enough to convey at least a pressure force of 5.0 Newton to the switch element.

13. (Amended) A hearing aid according to claim[s] 9[-12], wherein said switching means are adapted to switch an electrical signal between two predetermined levels, the controlling means being adapted to control the operation mode in response to a change in the electrical signal level provided by the switching means.

14. (Amended) A hearing aid according to [any of claims 1-13]claim 1, wherein the controlling means are adapted to control a power on/off operation mode of the hearing aid.

15. (Amended) A hearing aid according to [any of claims 1-13]claim 1, wherein the controlling means are adapted to select a particular pre-set listening program between a number of pre-set listening programs in the hearing aid.

16. (Amended) A hearing aid according to [any of claims 1-13]claim 1, wherein the controlling means are adapted to control a telecoil/microphone operation mode of the hearing aid.

17. A hearing aid according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, wherein the controlling means further comprises an integrated circuit.

18. (Amended) A hearing aid adapted to be positioned within an ear canal of an ear of a user, the hearing aid comprising means for manually removing the hearing aid from the canal, the removing means being fastened to the hearing aid and extending from the hearing aid toward an auricle of the ear, characterized in that the removing means comprise a stiff member adapted to remain in essentially the same predetermined position at least during normal deflection of said stiff member[movements of the user].